

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 789

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jack M. Lay of Oneida.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jack M. Lay, an exemplary person and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of Arlie M. and Orange West Lay, Jack Lay was born on March 21, 1930, in Oneida; after graduating from Oneida High School in 1947, he attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lay enlisted in the United States Navy through the Officer Candidate School and trained to become a fighter pilot; he earned his wings in Pensacola, Florida, shortly before the end of the Korean War and had the opportunity to fly some of the earliest fighter jets, including the F9F Panther and F7U Cutlass; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable discharge in 1955, Mr. Lay returned to Oneida to work in the family furniture business; a successful businessman in the Oneida area for many years, he served as president of Lay's Oneida Furniture Company, played a lead role in the Lay-Simpson Furniture Store chain, and was a founding partner of the *Independent Herald* newspaper and Cumberland Bowl in Oneida; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lay was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Oneida and was an active participant with the Oneida Lions Club, Scott County Chamber of Commerce, and Alumni and Friends of Oneida Schools; he was an avid golfer who enjoyed fishing, playing tennis, working on the family farm, and attending University of Tennessee football and basketball games; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lay enjoyed the love and companionship of his wife of sixty-one years, Sue Phillips Lay, to whom he proposed while flying a plane over Oneida; the couple joined in marriage on September 17, 1960; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Lisa Lay (Jeff) Brumett, Jack Marvin (Lisa VanCleave) Lay II, and Jerry Lay; grandchildren, Zach Brumett and fiancée Emily Conrad, Josh Brumett, Jacob (Jasmine Jones) Lay, Seth Lay, Jordan Lay, Maddie Lay, and Isaiah Lay; and special family friends, Evie Newport, Austin Chambers, Allyson Swecker, and Alyssia Terry; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his brothers, Allyn Lay and John Charles (Linda) Lay; sister-in-law, Nola Lay; brother-in-law, Bob (Mary) Phillips; and many special nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Willie H. "Bill" and Barbara West Phillips; brothers, David Harold, William Joseph Donald "Bill", and Robert Burton "Bob"; sister-in-law, Cynthia Lay; and brothers-in-law, Sam Phillips and Hal Phillips; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lay leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jack M. Lay, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend our sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.